

NOTE-TAKING DEVICE FOR USE WITH TEXTUAL MATERIALS

DESCRIPTION

[Para 1] As shown in FIGS. 1 through 4, a note-taking device with integrally attached locator tab embodying a preferred embodiment of the instant invention is designated by reference numeral 10. The device 10 generally comprises a writing portion 70 having an upper edge 72, lower edge 73, and left 74 and right 75 side edges with a locator tab portion 71 integrally attached to the upper edge 72 thereof. Preferably, the writing portion 70 and locator tab 71 are die-cut from one sheet of paper stock or flexible polymeric material during manufacture. The front surface of the writing portion forms a writing surface which is adapted for receipt of personal notes created thereon by a user with a typical writing utensil such as a pen or pencil.

[Para 2] Optionally, permanent indicia (not shown) may be formed on the front surface of the writing portion 70 in order to facilitate the organization of user created notes thereon. For example, a plurality of evenly spaced horizontal lines which extend between the two side edges (74 and 75) may be incorporated or even vertical lines whose cooperation therewith forms boxes for defining predetermined areas of the front surface for specific user input. Additionally, alpha-numeric characters or symbols may be added to provide further structure for the user created notes.

[Para 3] As shown best in FIG. 2, the rear surface 80 of the writing portion has a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive 82 disposed proximate the upper edge thereof that is preferably adapted for releasable attachment to a page of textual material. It is important to note that the rear surface of the locator tab 71 is void of any pressure-sensitive adhesive material for reasons to be described hereinafter.

[Para 4] FIG. 3 illustrates the note-taking device 10 stacked in plurality to create a pad 20 form for retail packaging or dispensing. The pressure-sensitive adhesive strip 82 as shown in FIG. 2 allows the device 10 to adhere to another device 10 immediately beneath it. The same is true of subsequent devices thereby allowing the notes to be arranged in such a stacked form. Notes can be removed individually from the pad 20 by lifting the bottom edge 73 of the device and peeling toward the upper edge 72.

[Para 5] FIG. 4 illustrates several of the devices (10a, 10b, and 10c) in operative engagement releasably attached to pages of a conventional book 30. The device 10a is affixed to the page 32 of the book 30 by pressing its upper edge 72 onto the page 32, wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive strip 82, as shown in FIG. 2, releasably secures the note 10a in place. Such placement allows the locator tab 71 to protrude beyond the edge of the page 32. Other devices (10b, and 10c), shown in operative engagement on other pages 34 of the book 30, illustrate how the note-taking device 10 of the present invention may be readily located by the user when the book is closed or the book is not currently opened to the page on which the note-taking device is engaged. It is important to note that locator tab should preferably be void of any portion of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer in order to alleviate any possible undesirable effects caused by a "tacky" surface extending beyond the confines of the book's structure.

[Para 6] Thus the note-taking device 10 of the present invention provides a novel means of user incorporation of personal notes into various forms of textual material such as books, magazines, publications, or the like without writing directly onto the printed page thereof. Personal notes may be taken over a plurality of the pages of the textual material and may be subsequently easily located for later retrieval. Since only a relatively small portion of the rear surface 80 proximate the upper edge 72 of the writing portion 70 has a layer of the pressure-sensitive adhesive 82 thereon, indicia on the page of the book may be easily accessed by simply lifting the lower edge thereof without necessitating complete removal of the device 10 from the page. Additionally, subsequent notes can be placed on their respective pages in a staggered

pattern to allow for easier access to the locator tab 71 thereof. Abbreviated notations may be made on the front surface of each locator tab 71 in order to differentiate among multiple note-taking devices engaged on the book.

[Para 7] Although the present embodiment describes a writing portion which is generally rectangular in shape, it is to be appreciated that the writing portion may also be formed into other geometric shapes such as squares, triangles, trapezoids, frusto-circles, and the like. The only limitation for the shape of the writing portion being that the upper edge 72 be generally linear in order to conform to the linear edge of a page of a typical book. Additionally, the locator tab 71 which is shown in the drawings as frusto-circular in shape may also be formed into other geometric shapes.

[Para 8] The preferred embodiment describes a locator tab 71 having a width which is less than the width of the writing portion 70 in order to minimize the amount of sheet material which extends beyond the edge of the page of a book or other type of textual material. However, it is contemplated that the locator tab may have sufficient width to extend the entire distance between the side edges (74 and 75) of the writing portion. The width of the writing portion 70 is defined as the distance between the left 74 and right 75 side edges. Also, the preferred embodiment describes a locator tab 71 which is disposed substantially at the central portion of the width of the writing portion 70; however, the locator tab 71 may also be disposed proximate either the left 74 or right 75 side edge without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention.

[Para 9] Since other modifications and changes varied to fit particular operating requirements and environments will be apparent to those skilled in the art, the invention is not considered limited to the example chosen for purposes of disclosure, and covers all changes and modifications which do not constitute departures from the true spirit and scope of this invention.